

SAURAUIA MOLINAE, A NEW SPECIES OF ACTINIDIACEAE FROM CENTRAL AMERICA

In the course of preparing the taxonomic treatment of *Saurauia* (Actinidiaceae) for Flora Mesoamericana, I was not able to place a group of specimens recently collected from Honduras in the classification scheme of Hunter (1966) or Soejarto (1980). Nor do these specimens fit the recently described species of this genus from Mexico (Keller & Breedlove, 1981). Further study showed that these specimens belong to a new taxon described below.

Saurauia molinae Soejarto, sp. nov. TYPE: Honduras. Departamento de Comayagua: 3 km S of Siguatepeque, 1,300 m, thickets along creeks in pine forest; weak tree, flowers white, 9 Jan. 1969, *Molina 23296* (holotype, MO!; isotype, F!). Figure 1.

Saurauia molinae Soejarto; inter species seriei *Gynotrichae* foliis valde coriaceis indumento sepalorum expositorum in alabastro et inflorescentiarum omnino gossypino differt.

Trees, to 12 m tall. *Branchlets* terete, distinctly hollowed, with leaf scars prominent, sparingly to densely appressed pubescent, pubescence denser along juvenile parts and shoots, trichomes plumulose-setose to plumulose-sericeous, yellow to rusty brown. *Leaves* simple, penninerved, spirally arranged, clustered below tips of branchlets; blades obovate to elliptic-obovate, 10–25 cm long, 5–13 cm wide, coriaceous, in dry state dark to gray-brown adaxially, olive brown abaxially, much darker adaxially, rounded-acute to very shortly acuminate to rarely obtuse at apex, cuneate to broadly acute to obtuse to rounded, but less frequently oblique at base, subentire to finely setaceo-serrulate along margins, teeth or setae less than 1 mm long, 2–8 mm apart, secondary veins 14–25 pairs, forming a wide-angled V (becoming more acute toward apex) with straight to somewhat curving arms that lightly curve and usually dichotomize shortly before reaching margins and may or may not form a lightly anastomosing network, tertiary veins elevated beneath, more prominent than lesser reticulation; upper surface usually smooth and sometimes opaque or subglossy, scattered pubescent, trichomes limited primarily to major veins, yellow to white, hirsute to sericeous, appressed to the epidermal surface, tufted to barbate at their base;

abaxial surface somewhat smooth, unevenly pubescent, denser along major veins, glabrous to glabrescent on other parts and between veins, trichomes along veins appressed to epidermal surface, plumulose-hirsute to plumulose-sericeous, mixed with and obscured by cottony or arachnoid indument in juvenile leaves, minor reticulation distinctly discernible; petiole subterete, lightly canaliculate adaxially, 2–4.5 cm long, 2–3 mm diam., abundantly to densely pubescent, trichomes to 4 mm long, plumulose-sericeous and mixed with arachnoid indument, the latter more distinct in juvenile leaves. *Inflorescence* a thyse, inserted at 30° angle to perpendicularly to branchlet, straight, becoming somewhat pendulous in fruit, moderately branched, 15–90-flowered, 7–18 cm long, 4–9 cm wide, abundantly to densely pubescent especially on terminal parts, pubescence yellow-brown, cottony, individual trichomes plumulose-hirsute mixed with and obscured by the cottony indument, peduncle 3.5–9 cm long, bracts linear to subulate, to 5 mm long, densely cottony pubescent. *Flowers* actinomorphic, perfect, of two types, one short-styled belonging to functionally staminate plants, the other long-styled belonging to functionally pistillate plants, 13–18 mm broad when open, buds subglobose, to 5 mm across, pedicels 2–7 mm long, to 10 mm in fruiting stage, bracteoles linear to subulate, to 4 mm long, densely cottony pubescent; sepals 5, reflexed at apex early in bud, remaining so in fruit, aestivation quincuncial, outer two ovate to elliptic to oblong-elliptic to orbicular-ovate, acute at apex, imbricated one ovate-oblong to suborbicular, rounded at apex, inner two ovate-oblong to ovate-orbicular to suborbicular, rounded at apex, all 7–13 mm long, 6–13 mm wide, the outer two the smallest, all densely cottony pubescent on exposed parts in bud, glabrous on imbricated parts and inner surface, outer two entire to obscurely ciliate, inner three distinctly ciliate; petals 5, white, connate basally and falling off as a unit with stamens after anthesis, oblong to oblong-obovate to oblong-elliptic, 6–10 mm long, 3–5 mm wide, rounded at apex, rarely emarginate or incised; stamens 19–21, filament 2 mm long, pubescent at base, trichomes filiform, anther linear-oblong, 2 mm long, extrorse; ovary globose, 5-loculed, 5-sulcate, densely pubescent, tri-

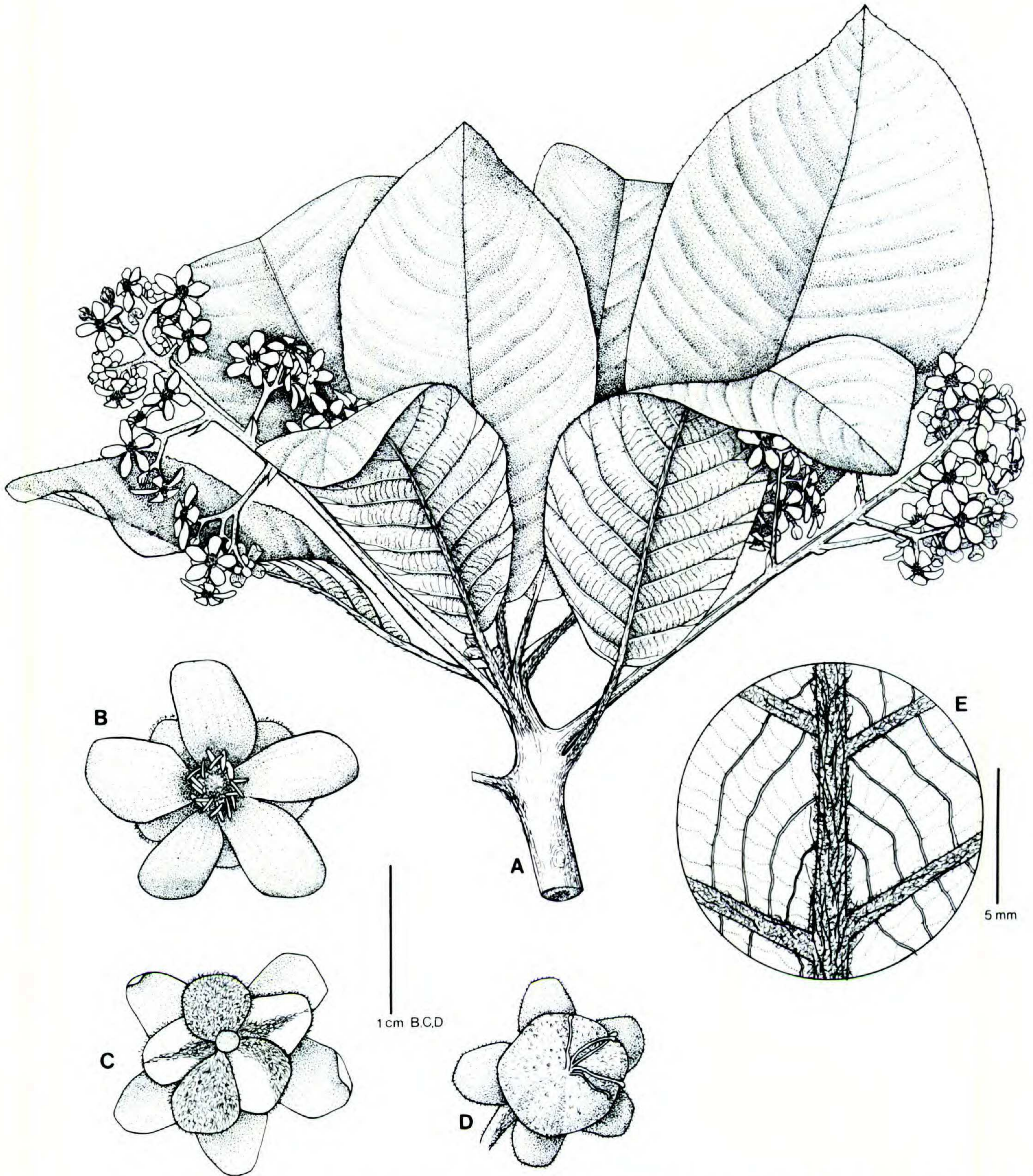


FIGURE 1. *Saurauia molinae* Soejarto.—A. Flowering branch from a functionally staminate plant.—B. A functionally staminate flower, top view; note the obsolete-styled, densely pubescent ovary surrounded by stamens.—C. A functionally staminate flower, bottom view, showing the pattern of pubescence on the outer surface of the sepals.—D. A fruit from a functionally pistillate flower.—E. Enlarged portion of the abaxial leaf surface to show details of venation and pubescence along the major veins. A–C, E are based on *Molina & Molina 25585* and *Molina 23296* (holotype); D is based on *Hazlett 1471*.

chomes yellow-brown, styles obsolete in functionally staminate plants, to 4.5 mm long in functionally pistillate plants, stigmas simple to subcapitate. *Berries* globose, 5-loculed, 5-sulcate, sparingly to abundantly pubescent (epidermal

surface of ovary usually visible), trichomes yellow-brown, of fimbriate-stellate type, with arms straight or wavy, hyaline and filiform, to 1 mm long and upwardly appressed, styles 5, persistent, to 5 mm long, sepals persistent.

Additional specimens examined. HONDURAS. DEPT. COMAYAGUA: 10 km W of Siguatepeque, between El Portillo and El Porvenir, 1,300 m, cut-over forest, weak tree, flowers white, 10 Mar. 1970, fr., *Molina & Molina* 25455 (F); 10 km W of Siguatepeque, new highway to the N coast, 1,200 m, cut-over mixed forest, ravine, tree 5–12 m, common, flowers white, “Capuchin de Montaña,” 18 Apr. 1971, fr., *Molina* 25985 (F); S of Siguatepeque, tree beside stream that passes through Potrerillos, 21 Apr. 1974, fr., *Hazlett* 1471 (MO). DEPT. INTIBUCA: Quebrada Lejarsia, between Kms 9 and 11 on road La Esperanza–Marcala, 1,600 m, open forest, weak tree, 8 m, common, 21 Mar. 1969, fr., *Molina & Molina* 24300 (F); Cordillera Opalaca, Pela Nariz, 1,900 m, cut-over cloud forest, weak tree, 6 m tall, flowers white, 13 Mar. 1970, fl., *Molina & Molina* 25585 (F). DEPT. LA PAZ: Cordillera Guajiquiro, between Las Marias and El Cerron, 1,700 m, cut-over mixed forest, tree 12 m, flowers white, 20 Mar. 1969, fr., *Molina & Molina* 24232 (F).

This new taxon belongs to the series *Gynotrichae* (Hunter, 1966). Like all other members of this series (*S. veraguasensis* Seem., *S. squamifruca* Hunter, and *S. waldheimia* Busc.), it is characterized by the possession of pubescent ovary.

S. molinae Soejarto may be distinguished from the other Central American members of the series by the following key:

- 1a. Leaves with stellate trichomes throughout the abaxial surface.
 - 2a. Inflorescences usually more than 10-flowered *S. veraguasensis*
 - 2b. Inflorescences usually less than 7-flowered *S. squamifruca*
- 1b. Leaves without stellate trichomes on the abaxial surface or, if present, limited only to the axils of secondary veins.

- 3a. Blades chartaceous, normally less than 15 cm long, axils of secondary veins villous-barbate abaxially, sepals with appressed-setulose or plumulose-setulose trichomes on the exposed surface in bud *S. waldheimia*
- 3b. Blades coriaceous, normally more than 15 cm long, axils of secondary veins not villous-barbate abaxially, sepals cottony pubescent on the exposed surface in bud *S. molinae*

The new taxon is dedicated to Dr. Antonio Molina, the Honduran botanist, whose extensive explorations of the flora of Honduras resulted in the discovery of this species.

I would like to thank Ms. Marlene H. Werner, a senior scientific illustrator of the Field Museum of Natural History, who kindly prepared the illustration.

LITERATURE CITED

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ERRATA

The following corrections should be made in the paper titled “The order Myrtales: circumscription, variation, and relationships,” by Rolf Dahlgren and Robert F. Thorne [71(3): 633–699. 1984 (1985)]. A and B should be switched in the legend to Figure 1. The legend to Figure 14 should be switched with the legend to Figure 16.